except Samburvadakara, villages for the purposes of the Regulation were published early in February last. In regard to Samburvadakara alone, petitions were received from the local people objecting to the organisation of the Panchayat. A sum of Rs. 6,000 has been provided in the budget for the current year for payment of contribution under Section 44 (3) of the Regulation to the village funds. The organisation of Panchayats in other places will be considered after the working of those to be now constituted has been watched for some time.

Education.

25. The total number of educational institutions in the State rose in 1106 by 58, and the number of pupils under instruction in them by 7,010. The College of Science was further affiliated in the B. A. Course with Zoology as the main and Botany as the subsidiary subject. French was introduced, as a temporary measure for two years, as one of the second languages for the Intermediate Course in the Science College, and a part-time teacher appointed. In the College for Women, Sanskrit was introduced as a compulsory second language for the Intermediate Course. Physical training under a full-time Lecturer trained in the Lady Willingdon Training College for Women was introduced in that college. The syllabuses for the English School Leaving Certificate Course were revised to fall into line with the scheme adopted in the Madras Presidency and the revised syllabuses in the compulsory subjects were approved and introduced. In each of the Physics and Indian Languages Departments of the Science College and in the English Department in the Arts College, one Tutor was granted leave and other facilities to prosecute higher studies in Europe

Travancore students have for some years past been experiencing considerable difficulties in the matter of getting admission to the Engineering College at Madras. Endeavours to have a few seats in that institution reserved annually failed. The Hindu University at Benares maintains an Engineering College and its degrees are recognised by the Government of India. The authorities of that University have agreed to reserve at least four seats for Travancore students every year in the Electrical Engineering Course, two seats in the Industrial Chemistry Course and one each in the Mining and Metallurgy Courses. In consideration of this, Government have sanctioned a donation of Bh. Rs. 1·25 lakhs as well as a recurring annual grant of Bh. Rs. 10,000.

The expenditure on the educational activities controlled by the Director of Public Instruction amounted to Rs. 49·09 lakhs in 1106 against Rs. 42·21 lakhs in 1105, the large increase being due to the disbursement during the former year of the arrears of grant and salaries at the enhanced rates to the staff of vernacular schools, private and departmental. The net expenditure on education rose from Rs. 33·54 lakhs in 1105 to Rs. 40·47 lakhs in 1106. The average net cost of education to Government per head of the population was 22 chackrams 4 cash in 1106.

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The Law College, which is under the administrative control of the High Court, was, from the beginning of the current academic year, converted into a full-time institution in accordance with the requirements of the University. The sanctioned staff now consists of a Principal, two Professors and five Elective Lecturers. In the F. L. and B. L. classes together, the strength fell from 629 to 324 or by nearly fifty per cent., as a direct result of the new arrangement. The institution was self-supporting in 1106 also, when the full effect of the reorganisation had not been felt.

Devaswoms.

26. In July 1925, the Dewan was relieved of his duties and responsibilities in connection with the administration of the Devaswoms within the territorial limits of Travancore and coming within the purview of the Devaswom Proclamation, dated the 12th April 1922, and the Devaswom Commissioner was made directly responsible to the Ruler. Soon after the assumption of ruling powers by His Highness the Maha Raja, this arrangement was cancelled and the Devaswom Department is now being administered by the Dewan like other departments of the Government with the Devaswom Commissioner under him as the head of the department.

Recruitment to the Public Service.

27. In my predecessor's address to you at the last session, the appointment of a committee to examine the question of recruitment to the Government service in its various aspects and to make proposals regarding the principles and methods of recruitment was foreshadowed. In December 1931, a committee consisting of five officials and five non-official members of the Legislative Council was accordingly constituted with wide terms of reference and under the chairmanship of the Deputy President of the Legislative Council. The lamented demise of Mr. Krishna Aiyangar unfortunately prevented the committee from beginning its work; but arrangements will soon be made to appoint a chairman and to expedite the report of the committee.

Assembly Elections.

28. Though the rules relating to the constitution and conduct of business of the Assembly were revised before the twenty-seventh session, the elections to that session had already taken place, and women, though enfranchised, could not exercise the vote last year. This session is therefore the first in the elections to which women participated. For the forty-three taluk seats, there were 5,400 men and 323 women voters. Women having been given both the right to vote and the right to be returned as members, my predecessor hoped last year that, at future sessions, elected women members would come in. That hope has not been realised. Of the voters on the rolls, only 1,972 men and 11 women in all polled. There was only one woman candidate and she was not returned. As at the last session, the Government have therefore nominated five ladies as members of this session.

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